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Prenatal health initiative improving health outcomes of mothers and babies wins Premier healthcare alliance national award
Centering Healthcare Institute "CenteringPregnancy Group Prenatal Care" program selected as 2010 Monroe E. Trout Premier Cares Award winner

PHOENIX (January 27, 2010) — Centering Healthcare Institute has been honored by the Premier healthcare alliance with the 18th Annual Monroe E. Trout Premier Cares Award for its CenteringPregnancy Group Prenatal Care program, which provides an innovative prenatal group care model now present in more than 300 sites across America. Centering Healthcare Institute last night received the Cares Award and \$70,000 for the work it has done to provide care to mothers and babies nationwide.

Sponsored by Premier and its member hospitals, the Cares Award recognizes exemplary efforts by not-for-profit community organizations to improve the health of populations in need. Representatives of the Centering Healthcare Institute (CHI), located in Cheshire, Connecticut, received the Cares Award during Premier's annual Governance Education Conference, January 25-27 in Phoenix.

"We are very pleased to be honored through the Trout Premier Cares award for our innovative work in health care delivery. We believe that we are changing communities one group at time", states Sharon Schindler Rising, CHI's Executive Director.

Since 2001, Centering Healthcare Institute has had the mission "to change the paradigm of health services to a group care model in order to improve the overall health outcomes of mothers and babies across the life cycle." Sharon Schindler Rising, a certified nurse-midwife, developed CenteringPregnancy® to bring women out of the exam room into a group setting where they receive basic prenatal checkups, build community with other women, and gain knowledge and skills in pregnancy, childbirth and parenting. Overall, women in this group care experience a 33 percent lower rate of preterm birth, demonstrating a dramatic impact on health outcomes.

A panel of hospital professionals, as well as health and business industry leaders, selects the winner and five finalists, which all receive cash awards for use in further improving their programs. "The efforts of these great organizations are making a significant positive impact on communities across the country," said Susan DeVore, Premier's president and CEO. "Simply, they are transforming the way healthcare is delivered in our communities by providing care to those most in need."